

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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IO-13 EB-07 /084 W

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R 120250Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5035

INFO USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 2026

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, NP

SUBJ: KING'S FORTHCOMING VISIT TO CHINA

REF: KATHMANDU 1875

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY WITH REQUEST (BEING SUBMITTED THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS) TO OBTAIN COPY OF RECENTLY CONCLUDED AGREEMENT ON OVERSEAS CHINESE BETWEEN PRC AND INDONESIA.

2. AT SAME TIME A NUMBER OF PRO-CHINESE NEWSPAPERS IN KATHMANDU HAVE POINTED OUT THAT KING'S UPCOMING TRIP TO TIBET WILL PROVIDE "OPPORTUNITY FOR TIBETANS LIVING IN NEPAL TO WITNESS TREMENDOUS STRIDES MADE IN RECENT YEARS." SIMILAR COMMENT APPEARED IN INDEPENDENT PAPER "NEPALI" WHICH NOTED THAT "THOUSANDS OF TIBETAN REFUGEES WHO ARE DESIROUS OF RETURNING HOME WILL OBSERVE HIS MAJESTY'S VISIT WITH GREAT HOPE."

3. REVERSE OF THE COIN IS QUESTION OF STATUS OF SEVERAL THOUSAND NEPALIS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN TIBET. ACCORDING TO 19TH CENTURY TREATIES NEPALESE MAINTAINED SPECIAL RIGHTS WITHIN TIBET, BUT FOLLOWING CHINESE TAKEOVER IN 1950'S
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THESE TREATY RIGHTS WERE ALL BUT ABROGATED EXCEPT FOR

MAINTENANCE OXOCONSULATE GENERAL IN LHASA. FORMER NEPALI CONSUL GENERAL IN LHASA DOM BAHADUR BISTA HAS REMARKED THAT STATUS OF THESE PEOPLE REMAINS IN LIMBO, ALTHOUGH BY AND LARGE THEIR PEOPERTY HAS NOT BEEN CONFISCATED. SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE OBLIQUELY EXPRESSED HOPE THE KING'S VISIT WILL "ENHANCE THE MORALE OF NEPALIS IN TIBET."

4. COMMENT: SEVERAL PROMINENT TIBETAN REFUGEES IN KATHMANDU HAVE APPLIED FOR NEPALESE CITIZENSHIP TO FACILITATE THEIR TRADE DEALINGS ABROAD. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED CITIZENSHIP AND THEIR STATUS, AS WELL AS THAT OF THE MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND TIBETAN REFUGEES LIVING IN THE COUNTRY, REMAINS UNSETTLED. THE MFA REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON CHINESE TREATIES WITH OTHER COUNTRIES WAY INDICATE A DESIRE TO USE THE VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY THE STATUS OF THESE PERSONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. EAVES

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